

MONTANA BOARD OF HORSE RACING  
BOARD MEETING

January 12, 2011

1:00PM

Scott Hart Auditorium – Department of Agriculture Building  
Helena, MT

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Al Carruthers	Chairman	Mike Tatsey	Board Member
Susan Egbert	Board Member	Carol Lambert	Board Member
Shawn Realbird	Board Member		
Sue Austin	Board Member, attended by phone		
Topper Tracy	Board Member, attended by phone		
Ryan Sherman	Executive Secretary	Sherry Meador	Legal Counsel

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Merritt Pride, Murray Warhank, Jerome Carpenter

CALLED TO ORDER: Chairman Carruthers called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Member Egbert moved to approve the October 16<sup>th</sup> minutes. Member Tatsey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Member Lambert moved to approve the December 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes. Member Tatsey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Executive Secretary's report:

1. Ryan Sherman has been settling and transitioning simulcast network . . .
2. Ryan Sherman received bids for breathalyzer machine and had found one for \$520 per board authorization at October meeting. The board has since received one for use from the Cascade County DUI Task Force at no cost to the board.
3. SB 16 – hearing Jan 12<sup>th</sup> in Senate Business and Labor. Good support. One letter of opposition by Bitterroot Valley horseman. Member Tracy will follow up with horseman.

B. Update on ME settlement: Ryan Sherman reported to the board that ME received checks from accounts payable. Sites clearly stated that they didn't need racks and modulators, but three sites went down as of Sunday afternoon because they did in fact need the equipment. ME backed out of what it said the settlement agreement included at hearing -- that transfer of the decoders to the Board included modulators as well. Sherman didn't push the matter because the sites said they didn't need the modulators. New modulators are being purchased – 10 per site at \$160 each.

C. Simulcast updates:

1. Simulcast handle was up to \$50,000 in the last two weeks. Tracks in California, Florida, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Oregon, Texas, Arizona and New York have been added.

The Board needs to get increase the number of simulcast sites, but increasing sites is dependent of Board's agreement with United Tote. Site in Belgrade is very excited about getting going. Need a site in Butte and a second site in Billings.

2. Received site agreements back from several sites. Tom Tucker's site reconciliation report has been very good. Sites are paying appropriate percentages except for Miles City (3<sup>rd</sup> best handle) who claims Board doesn't have authority to operate simulcast network. Member Egbert moved that the Board send a notice to MC site stating that it needs to make payment in full to Board or programming will be shut off upon seven days of receipt of this notice. Member Tatsey seconded the motion. Motion passed. It was noted that shutting off MC's programming does not impact MC's facility license at this time.

There was discussion about looking for sites in Glendive and Baker. Sherman will talk with potential site in Baker.

3.State reports – Currently have \$43,000 in purse money and anticipate \$120,000 by May 1<sup>st</sup> -- 26% decrease from 2010 purses.

4.January Simulcast Schedule for Horses and Greyhounds was presented to the board. Ryan has since sent the simulcast site password for all board members so that they are able to see day-to-day schedules, handles and other reports from all of the sites.

D. Date Applications: Board stated that, as of this date, dates can be dropped according to purse availability, but not added.

1. Miles City requested the following race dates -- May 8, 15, 20, 21. Member Tatsey moved the dates be approved. Member Egbert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

2. Great Falls requested the following tentative race dates -- July 1, 17, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31. Race meet will depend on contract with private entity. Merritt Pride stated his interest in running the Great Falls race meet. Final contract is subject to settlements with Montana Entertainment and Cascade County's financial commitment. Racing facility needs to lease/buy a new tractor, drag, harrow, race gate, and sand for track. Sherman has talked with horsemen about holding a fundraiser to race money for track resurfacing. If necessary equipment is obtained, Cascade County's fair manager will run training session so long as outside person (Pride) runs race meet. Member Lambert moved the requested dates be approved. Member Austin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3.Missoula requested the following race dates -- August 12, 13. Sherman informed the board that Missoula County wants to work with another entity to run the race meet, and then possibly expand dates the following year. Turf Club helped with application but is not in a position to run the meet. County fair manager is working with Kalispell to possible combine resources. Sherman noted that Missoula, due to its ability to get a large handle, would be the best track to add a date. Member Austin moved to approve the requested dates. Member Egbert seconded. Motion passed.

4. Billings/Yellowstone Downs requested the following dates – August 27, 28, Sept. 4, 5, 10, 11, 17, 18. There was discussion of running during the fair but Carlson stated that, while the County now sees racing as beneficial to the fair, there was currently not enough stalls to board both 4-H animals and horses there for the meet at the same time. Member Tatsey moved to approve the requested race dates. Member Egbert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### E. 2010 Breeders Awards Update:

1. Purse money was spent down to last cent. They are going to be paid, but are behind schedule because of the purse money being spent in 2010.

2. Future awards payment schedule. Sherman reported that payments were made at end of year because they generally go to the same people and only one check need be sent. Rules state payments should be made within 30 days after end of meet. There was some discussion as to whether or not to amend the rule. Member Tracy said it would be best to send the check out as soon as possible. Member Egbert agreed, checks should be delivered as stated in the rules. Member Realbird added that the board should show-off the delivery of the checks as good PR. It was decided to adhere to the 30 day delivery of checks.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Advance Deposit Wagering – TVG, Express Bet/Magna Entertainment), and Day at the Races are currently licensed with state. Board's return is a 30% increase over last year.

2. United Tote sent its license fee to Board. United Tote stated that they will deliver a contract to the Board to sign by end of following week. Once contract is signed, new sites can be opened.

3. It was decided that Board Chair and Vice Chair elections will be held at next meeting.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Kalispell race meet accounting – it was reported that Kalispell paid \$5800 to MOC for jockey insurance. Ryan Sherman notified the board that he authorized payment of the remaining amount to avoid the Montana contract being terminated by MOC insurance for non-payment. The board shall be reimbursed by KRM for this expense. Ryan Sherman also informed the board that he authorized payment to the State Vet for Kalispell race meet, as she had not been reimbursed as well. Kalispell still owes Board 1% of handle. United Tote had called Ryan Sherman seeking payment of the trucking bill that was owed on the tote board, he referred them to the KRM. Kalispell is negotiating with United Tote for \$2500 trucking company expense. Trident Media is still owed \$637 and will be compensated by Kalispell Race Meet as funds become available.

Member Egbert asked what services Tom Tucker was providing to the Board. Member Sherman stated he was providing race programs, site-reconciliation reports. He's providing reports for only simulcast sites now but may be able to provide reports for live sites in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no additional public comment

ADJOURNMENT: Member Egbert moved to adjourn. Member Realbird seconded the motion.  
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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Signature

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Date